

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5598

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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USCINCSO FOR LT GEN MACAULIFFE

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PDIP, DR

SUB: SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SECRETARY DURING HIS VISIT
TO SANTO DOMINGO

REF: STATE 187740,

FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SECRETARY'S
VISIT TO SANTO DOMINGO:

Q. IS THE USG CONCERNED BY "SOCIALIST" TENDENCIES IN
THE PRD WHICH MIGHT INFLUENCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO
LEAD THE DR ON A LEFTIST COURSE AND OPPOSE THE US ON
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES?

A. FROM STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF PRD CANDIDATES
DURING AND SINCE THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND FROM THE
ASSOCIATIONS OF US OFFICIALS WITH PRD LEADERS IN THE
PAST, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE NEW
GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN THE DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH OTHER
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DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES TO PROMOTE FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC
PROGRESS IN THE WORLD. THE PRD IS AFFILIATED WITH THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, MANY OF WHOSE LEADERS ARE
AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST PROMINENT DEMOCRATIC FIGURES.
OF COURSE, WE WILL HAVE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWPOINT ON
SOME BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, AS IS NORMAL
BETWEEN FRIENDS AND ALLIES. HOWEVER, THE U.S. AND THE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAVE TRADITIONALLY HAD A SIMILAR INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK AND WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR CLOSE COLLABORATION IN PURSUING INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF BASIC IMPORTANCE.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE EVENTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SINCE THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS? MORE SPECIFICALLY:

(A) HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE DECISION OF THE JOINT ELECTORAL BOARD WHICH ARBITRARILY GAVE CONTROL OF THE SENATE TO THE REFORMISTA PARTY AFTER THE PRD HAD WON A SENATE MAJORITY IN THE ELECTIONS? (B) WHAT ABOUT THE RECENT ACTIONS OF THE BALAGUER GOVERNMENT WHICH MANY DOMINICANS FEEL ARE INTENDED TO CRIPPLE THE INCOMING PRD ADMINISTRATION?

A. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING POST ELECTORAL EVENTS HERE, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE OPPORTUNE FOR ME AT THIS TIME TO COMMENT ON SPECIFIC INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS. OUR GENERAL VIEW IS THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC AND THAT WITH THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT GUZMAN, THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IS BEING CARRIED OUT.

Q. WHAT ACTION WOULD THE USG TAKE IF A COUP D'ETAT WAS MOUNTED AGAINST THE PRD GOVERNMENT AT SOME FUTURE TIME?

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A. THIS IS A SPECULATIVE QUESTION WHICH I WILL NOT TRY TO ADDRESS IN SPECIFIC TERMS. OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD VIEW WITH GREAT CONCERN ANY UNCONSTITUTIONAL MOVES TO OVERTURN A LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT. OUR SPECIFIC ACTIONS WOULD DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE U.S. ATTITUDE IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT ENTERED INTO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES?

A. THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE, AND IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON IT.

Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE US REACTION IF THE PRD GOVERNMENT NATIONALIZED THE PROPERTY OF AMERICAN MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS HERE? IN THIS CONNECTION, PRD LEADERS HAVE AT TIMES STATED THAT GULF AND WESTERN'S SUGAR LANDS SHOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT.

A. WHILE NATIONALIZATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY RESULT IN MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES, WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF SOVEREIGNTY. THE USG POSITION ON A NATIONALI-

ZATION ACTION WOULD DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS
UNITED STATES POLICY THAT WHERE NATIONALIZATION TAKES PLACE
AND AFFECTS U.S. CITIZENS, THERE SHOULD BE PROMPT, ADEQUATE

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USCINCSO FOR LT GEN MCAULIFFE
AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION.

Q. WHAT MAJOR PROBLEMS EXIST BETWEEN THE USG AND
THE GODR? DO YOU EXPECT ANY SUCH PROBLEMS TO EMERGE
IN THE FUTURE?

A. I AM PLEASED TO STATE THAT THERE ARE NO MAJOR
PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
AT THIS TIME AND WE PERCEIVE NO SUCH PROBLEMS ON THE
HORIZON. THERE ARE ISSUES, SUCH AS ARREARAGES ON DEBTS
OWED BY THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT TO THE U.S., WHICH WE
HOPE WILL BE RESOLVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND WE WILL
HAVE TO NEGOTIATE SUCH QUESTIONS AS MARITIME BOUNDARIES
AND FISHING RIGHTS. WITH GOOD WILL AND OUR TRADITIONAL
FRIENDSHIP, WE EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE
SUCH MATTERS AND ANY FUTURE PROBLEMS TO OUR MUTUAL
SATISFACTION.

Q. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED THAT THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT
FROM THE US TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WOULD DEPEND ON THE
INTEGRITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THIS
COUNTRY. NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED,
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WHAT SUPPORT CAN THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE EXPECT FROM THE USG IN FACING THIS COUNTRY'S SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH STEM IN LARGE MEASURE FROM CONTINUED LOW SUGAR PRICES?

A. THE USG IS GRATIFIED AT THE DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE EVIDENCED DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS JUST CONCLUDED WITH THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT GUZMAN. WE STAND READY TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH PRESIDENT GUZMAN'S ADMINISTRATION ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT, SHARING OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S PROBLEMS. WE INTEND TO PURSUE WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSIONS ALREADY BEGUN TO DETERMINE HOW THE U.S. MIGHT BEST BE HELPFUL IN MEETING THIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WE PLAN, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PURSUE OUR AID PROGRAMS IN SUCH AREAS AS HEALTH, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED PRIORITY AREAS OF THE GUZMAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF EXTENDING PL 480 AND CCC CREDITS AND EXPECT TO CONTINUE OUR EXIMBANK AND OPIC PROGRAMS IN THIS COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, WHOSE ROLE IN PROVIDING DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.

Q. THIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC HEALTH DEPENDS TO A GREAT EXTENT ON SUGAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. THE U.S. HAS ALREADY IMPOSED UNILATERAL DUTY INCREASES AND IMPORT FEES ON DOMINICAN SUGAR, WHICH HAVE HAD SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY. AND CONGRESS IS NOW CONSIDERING ADDED IMPORT REVIEW. HOW DO SUCH ACTIONS SQUARE WITH THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES?

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WHAT ARE THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S INTENTIONS ON THIS MATTER?

A. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO CONSIDER THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT THE CONERSTONE OF ITS SUGAR POLICY. THE FEES AND DUTIES LEVIED ON SUGAR IMPORTS ARE EMERGENCY MEASURES DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE U.S. SUGAR INDUSTRY UNTIL THE ISA OPERATES EFFECTIVELY TO RAISE SUGAR PRICES. THE U.S. CONGRESS IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING MEASURES TO COUNTER THE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT VERY LOW SUGAR PRICES. THE ADMINISTRATIONS'S POSITION IS THAT ANY

ACTION TAKEN TO ASSIST THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY THROUGH THIS
CRISIS PERIOD MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
THE ISA.
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